



THE REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
TO THE  
UNITED NATIONS

June 16, 2017

Excellency:

The Government of Mauritius is pursuing a UN General Assembly resolution requesting the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to issue an advisory opinion on Mauritius' sovereignty claim over the Chagos Archipelago, which the United Kingdom administers as the British Indian Ocean Territory. The President of the General Assembly has scheduled debate and action on this matter, under Agenda item 87, for Thursday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10 a.m. The United States requests that all Member States vote "no" on this Mauritius resolution.

The United States has consistently recognized United Kingdom sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago. For nearly four decades, the United States and the United Kingdom have operated a military base on Diego Garcia in the Chagos Archipelago. While Mauritius claims that its resolution focuses on decolonization, at its heart this matter is a bilateral dispute between the United Kingdom and Mauritius, and does not belong in the UN General Assembly. It is inappropriate to seek an ICJ advisory opinion with respect to a bilateral dispute when one party to that dispute does not consent. This could set a dangerous precedent for future bilateral disputes.

The United States has no interest in pursuing a lease or any other arrangement with Mauritius.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

  
Nikki R. Haley  
Ambassador



To All Permanent Representatives of the United Nations